

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN SUNDAY LAW

**Bill to Legalize Amateur Sports on Sabbath Receives Considerable Support at Hearing Before Judiciary Committee—Will Also Enable Hebrews to Conduct Business on Sunday—Local Option on Question of Law's Acceptance.**

Hartford, Conn., March 23.—The Judiciary committee this afternoon, in the house chamber, which was filled by men and women, took up consideration of all bills relating to proposed changes in the Sunday law. There were present advocates of Sunday baseball, both amateur and professional games, some promoters of sports who wished to liberalize Sunday in all directions, and ministers and others who objected to any changes in the present observance of the day.

**Hebrews Would Open on Sunday.**  
The first bills heard were those which are intended to meet conditions in some cities where Hebrews who are in business, having closed their stores for the orthodox Sunday, are not permitted to open on Sunday.

Mr. Katz of this city asked the committee to recommend a bill which will allow Hebrews to do business on Sunday if they have faithfully observed their own Sabbath.

**Sunday Sales of Ice Cream and Newspapers.**

Representative Murphy of Danbury appeared in favor of a bill which would allow the sale of newspapers, ice cream, food and some other things on Sunday, telling of conditions in his city, if the people want to have these necessities available.

John J. Dwyer of Hartford also favored a bill along the same lines.

**Mayor Fisher's Bill.**

After several persons had been heard on the bills, Senator Judson said that it had occurred to him that a medal ought to be given to any one who could draw a bill which would safeguard the quietude and repose of Sabbath and yet legalize those things which are demanded by advocates of a liberal observance of the day, and he felt that such a medal should go to Mayor Fisher of Middletown, who had drawn a bill meeting these conditions.

The bill was read by Mayor Fisher, who said that it had gone to another committee.

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law, in accordance with the regulation of the state for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

**Sec. 3—Section 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872 of the general statutes and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent therewith are hereby repealed.**

**Bill for Sunday Baseball.**  
The bill of E. S. Cunningham of New Haven was to allow baseball games. Mr. Cunningham spoke for this, saying that baseball was played at New Haven on Sundays, that it was a very orderly and such exhibitions should be legalized.

The Fisher bill, after he had heard it read, he said was like his own, only it had the local option clause.

**Meltzer's Bill for Sports.**

The committee heard Representative Meltzer of Bridgeport on his bill, to strike out of the present law the words which prevented sports. He argued that the state had a right to set apart a rest day in seven, but believed that that rest day should be the present Sunday.

Mr. Cunningham of New Haven favored the Fisher bill, but later on, when an opinion had been given that under it professional baseball could not be played on Sunday, Mr. Cunningham withdrew his support.

**Bridgeport Wants Liberal Sunday.**

Senator Paddock of Bridgeport said that he was elected on the Sunday law, and moreover was an advocate of local option on such a measure. He told of conditions on Sunday in his city, the great demand for sports on Sunday, and emphasized the fact that he had been elected on the basis of the best class of people. The sentiment of the city, he said, was for a liberal Sunday.

**Mayor Dunn Favors Fisher Bill.**

Mayor Dunn of Willimantic endorsed the Fisher bill as did Senator Neil. Until Senator Judson asked whether or not he thought Sunday professional baseball could be played under that bill.

Mr. McNell thought it could, but Mr. Judson did not.

**Professional Baseball Barred.**

Mayor Fisher, appealed to, thought professional baseball was barred, but the interpretation of the bill in this respect would be with the courts on the words "are as demanded by the general comfort and convenience of the community."

Mr. Fisher said that amateur sports could be conducted, but as the words "gaudious pursuits" were in the bill, the courts might hold that professional sports was a gaudious pursuit.

**Importance of Sunday Baseball.**

Senator McNell was not willing to accept the Fisher bill and to have the question of professional baseball left for court decision. He believed that the question of Sunday law was more important than the matter of utilities commission or many other measures before the assembly.

Mayor Fisher said he called himself essentially a religious man, anxious to preserve the quietude of the Sunday, and yet liberalize it so as to give recreation to the great many people who need the day for physical health. He would not advocate a bill which was designed to break down the observance of the day.

**Would Not Drive People to Church.**

When asked why he had not restricted games to Sunday afternoon, he said that he would not force the liberty of the people in the belief that by doing they could be driven into the churches in the morning. People would not go to church out of despair or lack of something else to do. The going to church was purely a voluntary matter.

**Objection to Professional Sports.**

E. G. Hill of New Haven, representing the Federation of Churches and Clubs, said he was present to oppose the Cunningham bill, which proposed to open the Sunday for professional ball games. He had not expected to be heard on the Fisher bill, but the Federation was in favor of a more liberal Sunday, but it objected to any bill which would be interpreted to permit professional sports. There would be no opposition to amateur sports. There was objection also to local option idea, because this would create confusion. The matter of a Sunday law was distinct from that of local option matter. He thought the Fisher bill had much merit.

**Turn Day Over to Connecticut League.**

John O'Connell of Hamden expressed the opinion that the Cunningham bill would turn the day over to the Connecticut league.

W. C. Prentice of East Hartford, representing the Hartford East association of Congregational churches, opposed to any change in the law that would commercialize Sunday.

**Are We Being Europeanized?**

Dr. Douglas McKenna said it would be difficult to define amateur sports and the line of local option. The question of Sunday ball playing involves the social morality of the state. "Are we," he asked, "to legalize a measure that will lead young men and women to Europeanize our spirit, especially professional sports? Are we going to Americanize those who come from Europe to live here, or are they going to Europeanize us?"

Rev. John G. Murray at the request of Bishop Nolan, who has in charge 400,000 souls, said that the bishop was opposed to anything that will liberalize or commercialize Sunday. "We feel it all important that people should one day a week turn their thoughts from worldly things," said the clergyman. "The question cannot be settled on a basis of local option. It is not evident to me that a majority of the people of Connecticut are in favor of a change in the law."

**Brief State News**

**New Britain.**—Postmaster I. E. Hicks has practically recovered from his recent illness.

**Farmington.**—Rear Admiral and Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles are spending some time in Washington.

**Branchford.**—Mr. and Mrs. Alden M. Young are at the Anchorage in Pine Orchard, having returned from a southern trip.

**Westport.**—Rev. Mr. Appleton of New York is here to act as assistant to Rev. Kenneth MacKenzie of Trinity church.

**Meriden.**—The matter of closing the local postoffice on Sunday, as is done in some cities, is not looked on favorably in this city.

**Danbury.**—N. Burton Rogers is running for mayor of Danbury, standing for "progress" and "liberty." The election is next Monday.

**Bridgeport.**—John Griffin, who had his leg amputated as the result of malignant infection received in being gored by an Angora goat, February 26, at the circus winter quarters, is reported as a trifle improved at the Bridgeport hospital.

**Stamford.**—Postmaster General Hitchcock is instituting a curtailment of the Sunday mail delivery service in New England offices, and an order has been issued regarding practically the closing of the Stamford postoffice on that day.

**New Haven.**—The alumni of Mt. Holyoke college of New Haven and vicinity will hold its semi-annual meeting and luncheon at Heublein's on Saturday at 1 o'clock. Prof. Edward Bliss Reed of Yale college will give a talk on books and reading.

**OBJECTION TO USE OF TERM "INSANE."**

**Legislative Committee Urged to Eliminate It from Name of Norwich Hospital.**

(Special to The Bulletin.)

Hartford, March 23.—Two bills affecting the Norwich hospital for the insane were taken up at a hearing before the committee on humane institutions Thursday afternoon. One of these bills concerned a change in the name of the institution, the other being relative to the cost of care of the patients within it.

**To Eliminate Word "Insane."**  
In brief, the first matter is proposed to add the word "insane," objectionable for various reasons, be removed from the official title of the institution, and the second matter, relative to the cost of care, is presented to the general assembly in an effort to make a certain class of patients who are amply able to do so to pay the full cost of such care as they receive at the state institution.

Judge Nelson J. Ayling, probate judge for the district in which the Norwich hospital is located and also trustee of the hospital, and Dr. H. M. Pollock, superintendent of the institution, appeared in favor of the two measures.

**Inmates Sensitive About Term "Insane."**  
Speaking relative to a change of title Judge Ayling said that patients are more hostile to going to the institution because of the name "insane." The idea is to take away the odium. To those violently insane the word means nothing, but to those suffering with a mild mental trouble the word "insane" is sometimes apt to prove objectionable and might cause them to go to a private sanitarium, this said with reference to the possible loss of revenue from persons who can afford to pay full cost of care. At present the official title is the Norwich hospital for the insane.

While containing the word "insane," it contains nothing to indicate that it is a state rather than a private institution.

**Other Institutions Doing It.**

Dr. Pollock, superintendent of the hospital, said that an investigation shows that institutions throughout the country are doing away with the word "insane" from its title. In the case of the Norwich hospital there is nothing to indicate that it is a state institution.

Judge Ayling suggested to the committee that without the words Connecticut or state there is nothing in the present title of the hospital to indicate that it is under state control.

**Opposition to the Change.**

W. W. Hyde of Hartford, trustee of the Connecticut hospital for the insane at Middletown, said he would change the name, believing that it would cause confusion relative to the statutes. He said he would not object to inserting the word "state" in the title, but thought that such an institution should be known for what it was and that the words "for the insane" should remain.

Dr. Edwin A. Downey, president of the state board of charities, also said a word in opposition to the removal of the words "for the insane," mentioning that it was being assumed that no other state hospital of a different character would ever be established at Norwich, in which event exact definition of the nature of each should be shown in the title. The word "insane" in opposition to adding the word "state" to the title.

**To Make Patients Pay.**

The other bill, concerning care of patients at the hospital, is aimed at a class of patients (and their relatives) who as inmates of state institutions for the insane take advantage of weaknesses in the present law to receive treatment at the same rate as those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of the state the necessity of meeting a part of the expense that they themselves are fully able to assume. As to the merits of the proposed bill much was said by Judge Ayling and Superintendent Pollock, who are sponsors for it. They freely admitted to the committee that they realized that if put in effect draw the state into them the criticism of those whom it was aimed at, but contended that it would save the state many thousands of dollars each year.

**Paying \$2 and Costing \$3.50.**

The gentlemen stated to the committee that there are now many patients in the Norwich institution that are being cared for at the cost of \$2 a week, whereas the cost of that care is \$3.50, who have estates sufficiently large to allow of relieving the state of any expense for their care or who have relatives able to pay the full cost of the care they are receiving.

Dr. Pollock said that he could not understand why the state should be out of charity to people who can well afford to pay. The intent of the bill, which has the approval of the governor and the state treasurer, is to make those who can and thereby save the state much money each year.

**Investigate Estates of Patients.**

The proposed bill provides for a more searching investigation by selectmen, who shall report to the probate judge, as to the value of the estate of a person to be committed to the insane institutions of the state, and vests the probate judge with power to fix an arbitrary rate for care to be paid from it if found can afford to pay.

Dr. Pollock told the committee that the number of indigent patients now at the Norwich hospital, if they averaged a payment of \$2 instead of \$3 a week, would save the state \$12,000 a year.

Mr. Hyde thought the plan a good one, but believed it would not prove practical. He thought extra officials would be required to make such exacting investigations of the estates of prospective patients and of the resources of their relatives and friends as is provided for in the bill, but if it could be made to work it was a fine thing.

**More Work for Probate Judges.**

Judge Ayling admitted that such a bill would make much extra work for the probate judges, but made it clear that he believed that such extra work would be productive of highly satisfactory returns in the way of saving money for the state and placing a part of the burden it is now carrying where it more justly belongs. The bill would in no way operate against those who by themselves or through their relatives or friends are too poor to pay more than the present charges at the state hospitals for the insane.

**TWO MEN HELD FOR CRUELTY TO TURTLES**

Placed Them on Their Backs and Pierced Their Flippers.

New York, March 23.—On charges of cruelty to turtles in that it is alleged they transported them on their backs and pierced their flippers, Cleveland Downs, 65 years old, captain of the steamship Saratoga of the Ward line, and Walter T. Smith, a New York terrapin dealer, were arraigned before a magistrate today and paroled for a hearing in the custody of counsel.

The complainant is Thomas F. Freely, superintendent of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The complaint charges that 65 turtles were mistreated, while the defense contends that the methods used are the only practicable means of shipping them.

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